Scholarship to SC/ST students for study abroad

†1787. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent/propose to send the promising students of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes in countries like America to gain Higher Education by way of awarding them scholarships;

(b) if so, the number of students sent/proposed to be sent abroad this year; and

(c) the number of male and female students sent abroad for higher studies along with details of such students from Rajasthan State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per information received from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, they were operating scholarship schemes upto the year 2000 to sent abroad SC and ST students respectively for higher studies in specified disciplines.

(b) According to these Ministries, nine SC students and three ST students respectively have been/are likely to be sent abroad during 2002-03 based on selections already made.

(c) There are no candidates from Rajasthan State among them.

Quality of higher education

1788. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of higher education including post-graduate teaching and research have to late been undergoing a downward trend in most of the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, whether the factors responsible therefor have been identified;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up a National Commission consisting of educational experts and academicians to go into the various ramifications of the problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.